



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 April 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Glasgow Evening Times reports a large human trafficking operation was smashed when an American living in Thailand was caught with 160 fake European Union passports at Glasgow Airport. (See item [18](#))
- Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt is on a tour through the U.S. warning that preparation for a possible avian flu pandemic is a uniquely local endeavor because an outbreak would spread quickly and might last for months. (See item [27](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 11, Energy Information Administration* — **Energy Information Administration releases April 2006 Short-Term Energy Outlook and Summer Fuels Outlook.** Continued steady world oil demand growth, combined with only modest increases in world spare oil production capacity and the continuing risks of geopolitical instability, are expected to keep crude oil prices high through 2006. World oil market conditions, growth in U.S. demand, and ongoing implementation of domestic fuel quality requirements are expected to keep consumer prices for motor fuels and other petroleum products high in 2006. By September 2006, fuel prices are expected to be much lower than last year because of the crude oil and natural gas production

and refinery outages caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. With another active hurricane season possible this year, news of any developing hurricanes and tropical storms with a potential to cause significant new outages could add to volatility in near-term prices in the latter part of the summer.

Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/steo>

2. *April 11, Columbus Dispatch (OH)* — **System designed to negate blackouts.** American Electric Power (AEP) is helping test technology that would allow some customers to go through blackouts without even knowing the power went out. In June at AEP's lab in Groveport, OH, researchers will begin evaluating so-called microgrid systems designed to allow small communities, commercial developments and industrial sites to switch to localized electricity generators or energy storage units during power outages. The system also would allow seamless reconnection once power is restored to the main grid. "The bottom line is to improve reliability," said Ali Nourai, AEP program manager for distributed energy resources. He said AEP believes that "distributed storage and generation is the wave of the future." AEP has signed an agreement with the Consortium for Electric Reliability Technology Solutions at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. Twenty researchers from across the country will participate in the yearlong project, which involves technology that is three or four years from actual use, Nourai said.

Source: <http://www.columbusdispatch.com/business-story.php?story=dispatch/2006/04/11/20060411-F1-03.html>

3. *April 10, Utility Automation & Engineering* — **New report examines impact of globalization on U.S. energy industry.** In a report titled "The Winds of Change — Will EPAct 2005 and International Competition for Energy Supplies Shift Market Outlooks?" analysts from Black & Veatch's enterprise management solutions (EMS) review the potential impacts of growing international economies on domestic energy markets and examine ways in which EPAct 2005 may be a catalyst for change. According to Stephen A. Stolze of EMS, the report reviews recent performance of local, regional, and diversified regulated utility sectors versus diversified competitive and competitive merchant sectors. It summarizes future energy price outlooks, and compares the revenue potential of natural gas fired generation versus coal and nuclear. The paper also reviews growth strategies for utilities and examines the future viability of the independent power producer business model. The report can be obtained by emailing a request to petersondl@bv.com.

Source: http://uaelp.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?ARTICLE_ID=252351&p=22

4. *April 10, Financial Times* — **Utilities chiefs outline energy fears.** Security of gas and electricity supply has become the biggest concern for executives in the utilities industry, according to a global survey by PwC. Fear of supply disruptions was greatest in Europe, where almost half of the utilities executives surveyed said power cuts or interruptions in gas supply were more likely now than five years ago. Political instability in countries that supply Europe's gas, together with the cost of compliance with environmental regulations, were the main reasons cited for the increased risk. Just under 40 percent of the surveyed companies said they were actively considering investing in clean coal technology. Coal and nuclear had come back into favor worldwide, PwC found. Gas will still play a large part in electricity generation, with 48 percent of respondents expecting gas to account for an increasing proportion of energy consumption in the next five years. But 47 percent said coal would play a larger part, and 19

percent said nuclear power would increase. Renewable energy would also rise, according to 29 percent of executives. PwC also said that the value of mergers and acquisitions in the global utilities market hit a record of \$196bn last year.

Source: <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/cb7fa348-c8b5-11da-b642-0000779e2340.html>

5. *April 10, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Ukraine sign cooperation arrangement on nuclear safety.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State Nuclear Regulatory Committee of Ukraine (SNRCU) signed a bilateral arrangement Monday, April 10 for the exchange of technical information and cooperation in nuclear safety matters. Under the arrangement, the NRC and the SNRCU may exchange technical reports supporting licensing actions, information on reactor safety research, and data on operating experience, including incidents, accidents or shutdowns, as well as documents on emergency planning and response for nuclear power reactors. The NRC maintains 38 other cooperation arrangements with 35 countries and Taiwan. Similar arrangements are currently being negotiated with Russia and Bulgaria, and are expected to be finalized later this year.
- Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-050.html>

6. *April 10, Washington Business Journal* — **Money to improve electric-power grid.** PJM Interconnection approved an additional \$894 million in upgrades to the electric-power transmission grid it manages in the region. The upgrades, which include \$230 million to connect generation projects capable of producing 2,500 megawatts of power for PJM's grid, are meant to address the expected peak demand for electricity in areas where generation sources are diminishing. Power companies have announced plans to retire 2,700 megawatts of generating capacity on PJM's grid, which serves 51 million people in all or part of 13 states, including Maryland and Washington, DC. The upgrades complete PJM's 2005 plan to meet the reliability challenges it anticipates its grid will face through 2010. PJM approved \$1.7 billion in upgrades under the plan, the most it has approved in any one-year plan.
- Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2006/04/10/daily1.html?from_rss=1

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

7. *April 11, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (NY)* — **Search for source of illness proves fruitless.** What caused 22 employees at a packaging facility in Wayne County, NY, to complain of chest pains and respiratory problems remains a mystery. The scare early Monday morning, April 10, caused the evacuation of Pliant Corp. and led the company to halt operations for approximately seven hours. "Our maintenance technicians are investigating to try to find out what caused the problem. There's no evidence of a chemical spill and no chemicals are out of place," said Pliant Human Resources Manager Tom Glissen. Hazmat response teams from Seneca and Ontario Counties evaluated the building Monday morning but found nothing, said Wayne County Operations Officer Richard Cobb.
- Source: <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060411/NEWS01/604110302/1002/NEWS>

8. *April 07, Wood TV 8 (MI)* — **Chemical spill prompts temporary road closure in Michigan.**

Hazmat crews responded to an accident involving a car crashing into the back of a semi truck at a busy intersection on Wilson Avenue in Standale, MI, late Thursday afternoon, April 6. Following the crash, the truck spilled a drum of ethanol onto the road. Although the spill was non-hazardous, authorities closed the road for a few hours.

Source: <http://www.woodtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4738294&nav=0Rce>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *April 10, U.S. Army* — **Army leaders in Europe introduced to Lean Six Sigma.** U.S. Army, Europe, was introduced to the future of doing business during a Lean Six Sigma (LSS) overview Friday, April 7. LSS is a significant part of the Army's business transformation initiative. It supports improvements across all major commands and functions, and its goals are to win the long war while sustaining the all-volunteer force, accelerate the future combat force strategy, and accelerate business transformation and process improvement. The near-term targeted processes that LSS will address include: property management, contracting, civilian human resources, military construction, reimbursable repair funding, information technology portfolio management, personal security investigations, planning and mobilization, military recruiting, and medical capabilities.

Army the Continuous Process Improvement Website: <http://www.army.mil/aeioo/cpi/>

Source: http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story_id_key=8811

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *April 11, Finextra* — **Bank of New Zealand caught in cross border ATM fraud.** Bank of New Zealand (BNZ) says scammers have targeted another of its ATMs and the information skimmed from cards has been used by criminals in Toronto, Canada to steal thousands from customer accounts. BNZ says scammers targeted a stand-alone machine located in Pakuranga Plaza in Auckland's eastern suburbs last month. Around 60 cards are thought to have been compromised. BNZ has blocked the cards known to have been used at the Pakuranga Plaza ATM between Wednesday, March 1 and Friday, March 31. Transaction records show 3,498 cards were used in the machine during this time; 2,200 of which belong to BNZ cardholders. The bank said last week that scammers had targeted its machines in the New Lynn and Silverdale areas of Auckland. To date, fraud arising from these earlier incidents is believed to be around \$54,690, with 38 cards thought to have been compromised. The bank says it cancelled around 2,000 ATM cards as a precautionary measure. This latest skimming incident follows last month's news that Citibank had imposed transaction blocks on an unspecified number of U.S. card accounts after scammers managed to steal customer's funds in a cross-border ATM scam.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15177>

11. *April 11, Finextra* — **More U.S. customers switching to Web banking.** The number of online banking customers in the U.S. grew to nearly 40 million during the fourth quarter of 2005, a 27

percent increase over the previous year, according to statistics from Web metrics firm ComScore Networks. ComScore says consumers continue to migrate to online banking, with the largest U.S. banks attracting more than 8.5 million new Web banking customers in 2005, and the growth is being fuelled in part by increasing use of electronic bill presentment and payment services and the growing availability of Internet-only high yield savings accounts. But despite this, Serge Matta of comScore financial services solutions says adoption rates are actually slowing, "In Q4 2005, the total number of online banking customers grew by 3.1 percent over the previous quarter, representing the lowest sequential quarterly growth in three years." Financial incentives and decreasing security concerns are the now the main motivations for signing up to net banking. Around 33 percent of new online banking consumers said free banking products were an inducement, while 23 percent said they felt more secure about online banking than they did previously.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15174>

12. *April 11, Computing (UK)* — **E-commerce sites leaving customer data exposed.** Online commerce sites are failing to encrypt financial transaction data despite an increase in security threats, a government report has revealed. According to the UK Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) biennial Information Security Breaches Survey, less than 66 percent of Websites are encrypting customer data that they receive. Smaller e-commerce firms are the worst culprits in terms of lax security, with less than a third of sites encrypting payment card and other financial information entered by customers when making a purchase. Larger Websites took a more responsible approach with 78 percent protecting the data that they received, according to the survey carried out by a consortium led by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC). Andrew Beard of PWC, said "Somewhat worryingly, the number of attacks on Websites is rising and half of the attacks reported by respondents were described as serious." However, the survey of 1,000 UK businesses did reveal that IT departments are reviewing their security policies due to a growing concern among internet shoppers about identity fraud.

Source: <http://www.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2153822/ecommerce-sites-leaving>

13. *April 11, Computing (UK)* — **HSBC to issue security tokens to online business customers.** HSBC is stepping up security for its Internet banking business customers by issuing them with authentication devices free of charge. Some 180,000 password authentication devices will be sent to UK business customers starting next month, as the bank looks to step-up defenses against internet criminals. The key-ring sized devices is expected to reduce the risk of online fraud, resulting from phishing, keylogging trojan software and computer hackers. When logging on to the Internet banking service HSBC business customers will be asked to verify themselves using something they know, such as a password and also an object they physically have which generates a unique passcode. The bank says it has decided to introduce the portable tokens due to a growing concern among the banking industry about the increase and sophistication of Internet crime. The system will replace a digital certificates system currently used and follows trials that have taken place in Brazil and Hong Kong. Last month, Lloyds TSB revealed that it had eliminated online banking fraud among some 23,500 customers who were testing similar key-ring sized devices during a five month trial. Other UK banks are also offering different forms of two-factor authentication technology.

Source: <http://www.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2153871/hsbc-issue-security-tokens>

14.

April 06, Computing (UK) — **The rise of smart tagging.** Radio frequency identification (RFID) has long been touted as a means of improving business efficiency in the supply chain. Initially, the driving force for use was in retail and manufacturing. But other sectors, such as financial services and petrochemicals, are beginning to recognize the cost benefits offered by smart goods and equipment. Analysts and users are also in agreement that RFID looks set to become a major enabler for data transfer. Chase Bank recently issued 5,000,000 cards with RFID chips, enabling payment of goods below \$25 to be made without the need for a signature or PIN. Users simply pass the card near a reader in a shop to purchase goods. Roy Illsley, senior research analyst at Butler Group, says this will work like a credit card purchase, but with no paper audit — and the retailer will expect instantaneous transfer of funds. "This demands a secure protocol between the card and reader, and also that communication between reader, bank and retailer happens," he says.

Source: <http://www.computing.co.uk/computing/analysis/2153696/rise-rise-smart-tagging>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

15. *April 11, Associated Press* — **Air controllers tie safety issue to FAA's final offer.** Safety in the skies and at airports could suffer if hundreds of veteran air traffic controllers nationwide retire early rather than accept a final contract deal offered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the controllers' union said Monday, April 10. "If the FAA unilaterally implements this contract, unfortunately it probably would have an adverse impact on safety," said Craig Burzych, National Air Traffic Controllers Association president at O'Hare International Airport. Two serious errors by O'Hare controllers last month led to planes taking off on collision courses on intersecting runways. Accidents were avoided, in one case when the planes stopped 100 feet away from each other. With less-experienced controllers replacing journeymen, "that type of situation is more likely to repeat itself," Burzych said. The FAA's final contract offer to the union now goes to Congress, which has 60 days to review it and the union's objections.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/nearwest/chi-0604110196apr11.1.1049709.story?coll=chi-newslocalnearwest-hed>

16. *April 11, Washington Technology* — **Technology and integration choices dominate Secure Border competition.** Beyond cities and highways, miles upon miles into the desert, the U.S.–Mexico border stretches to the horizon over sun-baked land. "In the desert, there is no power, no towers, no anything," said Chris Josephs, director of homeland security of the global government solutions group for Cisco Systems Inc. In this harsh environment, several of the largest IT systems integrators in the United States are taking on one of the biggest federal technology projects of the decade: creating Secure Border Initiative–Net, an electronic surveillance system that will cover the U.S.–Mexico border, 2,000 miles long. The other portion will span the 4,000-mile-long northern border with Canada. Establishing an infrastructure of power and communications to support a large-scale surveillance system in such vast and remote areas unquestionably presents challenges. "Surveillance is easy where there is infrastructure. The hard part is the other 90 percent," Josephs said. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced Secure Border in November; a chief feature of Secure Border will be sensor and surveillance technology, possibly including advanced video cameras

with high-resolution images, infrared viewing, night vision, low-light capabilities and “intelligent” capabilities to detect unusual events.

Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/21_7/homeland/28363-1.html

17. April 11, Tampa Bay Business Journal (FL) — Container business at Tampa port gets boost.

Zim American Integrated Shipping Services Co. will make Tampa, FL, a mainline port of call starting in July. Zim, which says it is one of the largest 20 container shipping companies in the world, currently has a feeder connection service to Tampa. The first all-water, direct Asia-Gulf Express weekly service will depart from Shanghai, China to ports in Asia, Panama, the U.S. Gulf, and Tampa. The news is a sign that the port's revamped business strategy to develop containerized cargo is paying off. That included the purchase of gantry cranes last year. Zim will triple its Tampa service size with the upgrade. It will go from utilizing its current 1,000 unit feeder connection container ships to using nine of its newest 3,000 unit panamax container ships.

Source: <http://tampabay.bizjournals.com/tampabay/stories/2006/04/10/daily19.html>

18. April 11, Glasgow Evening Times (UK) — Man caught at UK airport with 160 fake passports.

A huge human trafficking operation was smashed when a man was caught with 160 fake passports at Glasgow Airport. A worldwide operation tracked Gerald Fredericks, 60, as he traveled from Bangkok to the UK. When he flew into Glasgow, rather than Heathrow, where he believed security would be tighter, Customs officers pounced. They seized 160 counterfeit European Union French passports — all blank and ready to be sold to help in the cross-border movement of illegal immigrants. Fredericks, an American living in Bangkok, Thailand, has been remitted to the High Court in Paisley for sentence after pleading guilty to the offence at the town's sheriff court. Paisley Sheriff David Pender said, "In these days of international terrorism, the possibility of criminal activity is endless and on one view, frightening, if these fell into the wrong hands."

Source: <http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/hi/news/5050935.html>

19. April 11, Associated Press — Tulsa International Airport temporarily closes concourse over security breach. Officials at Tulsa International Airport temporarily closed a concourse Tuesday morning, April 11, after someone went around a security checkpoint. Airport spokesperson Mary Smith said police arrested an individual about 5:50 AM CDT on Tuesday after the person walked through the exit lane of the checkpoint and into Concourse B. Smith says about 12 flights were affected.

Source: <http://www.kotv.com/main/home/stories.asp?whichpage=1&id=102229>

20. April 11, Associated Press — New Orleans-Baton Rouge Amtrak route considered.

Transportation officials are studying the possibility of an Amtrak passenger train route between New Orleans and Baton Rouge to help handle the flow of commuting workers following Hurricane Katrina. Amtrak made a test run last week between Union Passenger Terminal in New Orleans and a Kansas City Southern rail station in Baton Rouge to see if the route is suitable technically for passenger service. The state is waiting to see how much of a subsidy the venture would require, and whether federal money for it is available, said Cleo Allen, a spokesperson for the state Department of Transportation and Development. Passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans was discontinued in 1968.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-04-11-la-amtrak_x.htm

21. *April 10, Associated Press* — **Judge delays ruling on flight attendants' contract.** A federal bankruptcy court extended the Monday, April 10, deadline for ruling on the labor dispute between Comair and its flight attendant union at the request of both parties. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Adlai Hardin will not rule until at least April 17 on whether the company can reject the existing contract and impose new terms, or whether the existing contract should stand. Comair asked the court to reject the existing deal, saying it needs \$8.9 million in concessions from its nearly 1,000 flight attendants in order to lower costs and compete. The regional airline operates the most flights at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport near Hebron, KY — the second-largest hub for Comair's parent Delta Air Lines. Connie Slayback, president of Teamsters Local 513, said the top concern for the flight attendants remains job security. Comair flight attendants earn between \$16,000 and \$40,000 a year, but an average worker earns about \$26,000. Comair's request from the court would cost an average flight attendant more than \$10,000 a year in pay and benefits, according to the union.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-04-10-comair-decision_x.htm

22. *April 05, WALB (GA)* — **Airport evacuated over the word bomb.** An argument over the telephone — over a lost piece of luggage — between an angry Lee County, GA, man and an ASA Delta luggage manager led to the evacuation of the Southwest Georgia Regional Airport terminal in Albany, GA, on Wednesday, April 5. Airport Director Yvette Aehle said, "A person that was angry that his bag was late had made a terroristic threat about a bag inside the terminal. So of course we had to evacuate the terminal." Two Military bomb detection dogs from the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Aldo and Kastor, were brought in to check the Terminal. While all this was going on, Richard Kehani stood by with FBI and Transportation Security Administration officials, as well as Police Investigators. Kehani flew back from India Saturday, April 1, and his granddaughter's luggage was lost. Five days of frustration blew up on the phone with the luggage manager on Wednesday, April 5. When asked if he ever said there was a bomb, or anything about a bomb, Kehani said, "No, I just told her 'I wish someone throw a bomb at your place.' I say the word like that, a figure of speech." The bomb dogs found nothing, and the airport was re-opened.

Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=4731713&nav=5kZO>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

23. *April 10, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **More than \$70 million provided to protect farm and ranch lands.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns Monday, April 10, announced the availability of more than \$70 million to protect agricultural land in 50 states and Puerto Rico through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) in fiscal year 2006. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking proposals from

state, federally recognized tribal and local governments and non-governmental organizations interested in working together to acquire conservation easements on farms and ranches. Since the program's inception in 1996, more than 277,811 acres of farm and ranch land have been protected in 43 states. FRPP protects productive agricultural land by purchasing conservation easements to limit conversion of farm and ranch lands to non-agricultural uses. Using existing programs, USDA partners with State, tribal, or local governments and non-government organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners.

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2006/04/0122.xml

- 24. *April 10, Associated Press* — Latest testing shows twelve chronic wasting disease cases.** A dozen cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) were found in 3,245 samples of deer and elk tested in the past nine months, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks said. The diseased animals were found in areas where CWD has been found before -- the Black Hills and in Fall River, Custer, and Pennington counties. Nearly all the samples tested since July 1 came from animal heads submitted by hunters. The department also tests any elk or deer exhibiting signs of the disease. Four elk, four mule deer and four white-tailed deer were found to have the disease in the most recent testing. Seven of the positive cases were in Fall River County, two in Pennington County, one in Custer County, and two in Wind Cave National Park.

CWD information: <http://www.cwd-info.org/>

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=1302&dept_id=181981&newsid=16459084&PAG=461&rft=9

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

- 25. *April 11, Reuters* — Indonesia confirms new human bird flu case.** A 23-year-old man undergoing treatment in Sumatra has been confirmed to have bird flu, an Indonesian Health Ministry official said on Tuesday, April 11, citing results from a World Health Organization-affiliated laboratory in Hong Kong. Indonesia has had 23 internationally confirmed deaths from avian influenza since 2003. The man had been working at a chicken farm in West Java before he became sick. Indonesia has had the most human bird flu deaths of any country so far this year, killing at least 12 people.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SP307395.htm>

26. *April 11, Agence France–Presse* — **Egypt reports new human case of bird flu.** Egypt has reported another human case of the H5N1 strain of bird flu, bringing to 12 the total number of Egyptians infected by the virus, the official MENA news agency said. The latest case was detected in an 18-year-old woman from the northern governorate of Menufiya. The woman is said to have contracted the disease four days earlier after handling infected poultry. Egypt, the most populous country in the Arab world, is on a major route for migratory birds and is the hardest-hit non-Asian country since the bird flu epidemic broke out in 2003. It was first detected in birds in Egypt in February. The first human case was reported on March 18. Of the 12 Egyptians infected over the past weeks, three have died, five have recovered and four are receiving treatment.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060411/hl_afp/healthfluegypt_060411120309;_ylt=AscNcGXkoSygFxnWmQqV.mGJOrgF:_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

27. *April 10, Federal Times* — **Bracing for bird flu.** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt is on tour. His mission: Deliver a wake-up call about pandemic flu to all 50 states and the U.S. territories. “Any community that fails to prepare and expects the federal government will come to the rescue is tragically wrong. It’s not because we don’t care, don’t want to, or don’t have the money, but because it’s logistically impossible,” Leavitt told state and local officials gathered at a Maryland pandemic flu summit in Baltimore in late February. This week he’s in Nashville, TN, Anchorage, AK, and Tacoma, WA, where he’ll sing the refrain: Preparation for and response to pandemic flu, such as the avian flu that’s circling the globe and will likely land in the U.S., is a uniquely local endeavor because an outbreak will spread quickly and may last for months. The purpose of the tour, say HHS officials, is to promote awareness and education that will lead to action.

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=1673613>

28. *April 10, Montana Standard* — **Health officials battle virus outbreak.** Health officers fanned out across Billings, MT, for a second day on Friday, April 7, to educate hundreds of businesses about preventing transmission of Norwalk virus. Norwalk virus, which is also called norovirus, surfaced two weeks ago at Billings Health and Rehabilitation Community, where 150 residents and staff became ill. A week later, 50 people were sick with the virus at Highgate Senior Living, and reports of illness were connected with the Golden Corral restaurant earlier this week. In all, the health department has recorded about 500 cases of sickness, many of which cannot be connected to the known outbreak sites. Although the Billings outbreak began among older residents, it has since spread to other populations. Communities in Washington and Oregon are also battling Norwalk virus. In Salem, OR, about 100 people were sickened at a state hospital. Meanwhile, three people died at a Vancouver, WA, nursing home, and about 50 others were sick. Infection is characterized by severe bouts of vomiting and diarrhea and can result in dehydration.

Source: http://www.mtstandard.com/articles/2006/04/10/newsstate/hjjd_jfijciehf.txt

29. *April 10, Reuters* — **Engineers could aid bird flu vaccine effort.** Avian flu experts appealed on Monday, April 10, to engineers — a group largely left out of flu preparedness efforts — to come up with potential breakthroughs for speeding vaccine production in case of a deadly pandemic. The hope is that engineers could use their expertise in areas such as assembly lines

and production techniques to help vaccine developers jump hurdles. Klaus Stohr, head of the World Health Organization's influenza team, spoke to a meeting sponsored by the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Engineering. It was held on the campus of Case Western Reserve University. The idea of turning to engineers emerged when some Case faculty heard Julie Gerberding, head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warn that a vaccine could not be produced fast enough during a flu pandemic. Existing vaccine factories can make only 900 million doses of influenza vaccine globally — far short of what would be needed in a pandemic when billions of people would need to be vaccinated.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2006-04-10T234141Z_01_N10221690_RTRUKOC_0_US-BIRDFLU-VACCINES.xml

30. *April 10, Reuters* — **Dangerous swine disease struck twice, Chinese say.** A dangerous infection that pigs can pass to people took an unusually fatal form last year and killed 38 people, Chinese scientists reported on Monday, April 10. All but one of the people killed by *Streptococcus suis* in July and August 2005 in China died of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome, they said. This severe type of immune reaction had never been seen in *S. suis* infections. The researchers, led by George Gao of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, said last year's outbreak, which affected 204 people, mostly in Sichuan province, was not unique. "Retrospectively, we found that this outbreak was very similar to an earlier outbreak in Jiangsu Province, China, in 1998. In the 1998 outbreak, 14 of the 25 infected died.

Research study: <http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10%2E1371%2Fjournal%2Epmed%2E0030151>

Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-04-10T210305Z_01_N10297935_RTRIDST_0_HEALTH-SWINE-DC.XML&archived=False

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *April 10, Morris Daily Herald Online (IL)* — **Illinois National Guard conducts first statewide WMD drill.** The Illinois National Guard's (ING) first statewide simulated weapons-of-mass-destruction (WMD) attack, called Heartland Strike, was conducted last Saturday, April 8, in Seneca, IL. About 300 Guardsmen and 50 local residents participated. Lt. Col. Tim Franklin of ING headquarters in Springfield said Monday, April 10, the simulated WMD attack was very successful, based on the way the troops responded, and how the first responders in Seneca and Marseilles, including police, firefighters and ambulance personnel, teamed up with the military. The weekend disaster drill was the first of its kind statewide for the ING. The first-ever drill was last year at Camp Lincoln in Springfield in cooperation with the headquarters' Joint Task Force. The next simulation is tentatively scheduled in the Chicago

area in May.

Source: <http://www.morrisdailyherald.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=58&ArticleID=17843&TM=59694.73>

32. April 10, Florida Emerald Coast — Florida security task force holds functional exercise.

The Northwest Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force held a functional exercise last week in Escambia County. The purpose of the exercise was to allow participants to continue to refine coordination and improve response of domestic security assets should any county in Northwest Florida have a need beyond their normal ability to respond. The strategy of the task force is to build on response capability among the partners to ensure a base level of readiness in every municipality.

Source: <http://community.emeraldcoast.com/article.showarticle.db.php?a=3816>

33. April 10, Daily Pennsylvanian — Drill prepares University of Pennsylvania students for airborne threats.

University of Pennsylvania safety officials are trying to make sure students know what steps to take in the event of an airborne toxic release by terrorists. The Division of Public Safety held shelter-in-place drills — designed in part to prepare students for a terrorist attack — in three college houses last week. During the drills, students gathered together in corridors to practice what would happen if an airborne toxin like anthrax were released near campus. The university plans to hold 15 more drills in buildings around campus by May 15. The university created an emergency plan that did not include such drills for students and staff in the summer before the September 11 terrorist strikes. Since those attacks, the University of Pennsylvania has expanded the plan to include the shelter-in-place drills — 53 of which were conducted in 2005 — in addition to standard evacuations, like fire drills.

Source: <http://www.dailypennsylvanian.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2006/04/10/443a01abb64ed>

34. April 10, Georgia Tech — Chemical Companion helps first responders. When dealing with hazardous materials — whether from a truck spill or a terrorist attack — information is critical. Before first responders can begin to aid victims and decontaminate a scene, they must determine what substances are present and understand the inherent risks to humans and the environment. To help first responders and Hazmat teams, researchers at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) have developed the “Chemical Companion.” This software tool, which operates on Windows CE-based personal digital assistants, provides detailed information on 130 of the most common chemicals associated with hazmat incidents. First responders may be able to identify chemical agents from the shape of containers, shipping papers or signs posted at the Hazmat scene. But if there are no solid clues, the Chemical Companion enables responders to identify an unknown chemical by entering details about the substance’s physical appearance, such as odor, color and state. Another option for pinpointing unknown chemicals is to report medical symptoms displayed by victims. For example, twitching, constricted pupils, excessive sweating and confusion might indicate the presence of the nerve gas, sarin.

Source: <http://www.gatech.edu/news-room/release.php?id=928>

35. April 10, Brookhaven National Laboratory — First response guidance for dirty bomb scenario. In a cover article in the April issue of the Health Physics journal, Brookhaven National Laboratory health physicist Stephen Musolino and Sandia National Laboratories

senior scientist Frederick Harper offer guidance to first responders, planners, and other decision makers for protective actions during the first 48 hours after a dirty bomb — formally known as a radiological dispersal device (RDD) — has been detonated. Based on their experiments, Harper and Musolino recommended establishing a “high zone” with boundaries of 500 meters in all directions from the point of detonation. Because there is a good set of experiments behind this recommendation, first responders can follow it without radiation measurements if they know there is radiation associated with the explosion. Responders are advised to evacuate this “high zone” and control access to prevent uncontaminated people from entering the affected area. Their guidance recognizes that management of public health for the effects of an RDD is very different than the approach taken for chemical or biological terrorism, and gives first responders and planners science-based options for new response strategies.

Source: http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/pr/PR_display.asp?prID=06-45

- 36. *April 10, WBKO (KY)* — Kentucky interstate barriers a problem for emergency responders.** The barrier walls separating the north and south bound lanes of Kentucky's Interstate 65 were put up to prevent head-on collisions from happening. But when an accident occurs, the walls create a barrier between the person involved in the accident and the emergency responders. Craig Peay, coordinator of the Warren County Fire Departments, says: "Our options are very limited. Drive down to the Simpson County line, turn around and come back, or drive further to the Barren County line turn around and come back." Peay says on average response takes seven to nine minutes. The transportation department says it has a plan in place to help emergency responders with this issue.

Source: <http://www.wbko.com/news/headlines/2610856.html>

- 37. *April 05, Massachusetts Institute of Technology* — Simulation set for April 11 to test response to avian flu.** The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) will stage a real-time simulation of an avian flu outbreak to show how global supply chains are severely disrupted by such emergencies. Leaders from business, government and academia are expected to attend the event, which will take place on Tuesday, April 11. Developed by MIT's Center for Transportation & Logistics (CTL), the simulation will involve a hypothetical outbreak of avian flu that shuts down a fictional manufacturing facility. The plant closure will ripple through the global supply chain as other countries and companies react to the news. A panel of executives will respond in real time to the unfolding emergency, which will be shaped by prompts and prescribed news bulletins delivered by a facilitator. The exercise is part of CTL's larger, day-long annual symposium titled "At the Crossroads of Supply Chain and Strategy: Simulating Disruption to Business Recovery." CTL Director Yossi Sheffi said the center devised the exercise to get companies thinking about contingency plans for global disruptions such as an avian flu pandemic.

Source: <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2006/avian-flu-0405.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

- 38. *April 10, Associated Press* — Red Hat to buy JBoss.** Red Hat Incorporated said Monday, April 10, it has agreed to buy open-source software maker JBoss for \$350 million in stock and cash. Open-source operating systems such as Linux allow users to copy, distribute and modify

the program's code. Proprietary systems such as Windows do not allow users to modify its secret code. Raleigh-based Red Hat develops software based on the Linux system and refines it for business and government users. Atlanta-based, privately held JBoss makes middleware, a type of software that connects different applications.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/technology/AP-Red-Hat-JBoss.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

39. *April 10, IDG News Service* — **Oracle Server flaw sparks warning.** A software security expert warned users of Oracle Server that a software flaw could allow any user to read, modify, and delete data used by Oracle applications and that Oracle may have unwittingly shown hackers how to exploit the previously unknown hole. Alex Kornbrust of Red-Database-Security said that an article posted on Oracle's MetaLink knowledge base on Thursday, April 6, identified an unpatched security hole that allows Oracle users with read-only privileges to delete or modify rows of data used by Oracle applications. Sample code published with the knowledge base article showed Oracle customers how the flaw could be exploited, he said. An Oracle spokesperson said the company is preparing a patch to address the vulnerability in a future Critical Patch Update.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/04/11/77308_HNoracleexpl_oitcode_1.html

40. *April 10, Tech Web* — **Gartner: Half of corporate PCs can't run Vista.** About half of corporate PCs are not equipped to run all the features of Windows Vista and companies should plan to gradually deploy the upcoming operating system through new computers, rather than take the more expensive alternative of buying new hardware for older machines, the Gartner research firm said Monday, April 10. Among the major requirements of Vista, compared with Windows XP or 2000, is a graphics card that supports Vista's user interface and visual enhancements. In addition, computers will need at least 1GB of RAM to run Vista, and an additional 512MB if companies plan to use PC virtualization during the migration to run an older OS and Vista simultaneously, Gartner said.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=FH3MX04KBGNP0QSNDBGCKHSCJUMEKJVN?articleID=184430308>

41. *April 10, Register (UK)* — **Sudoku used as bait for adware download.** Adware traffickers have begun to lure users into dangerous Websites using a sudoku puzzle as bait. The game is functional, so users with vulnerable Windows PCs would have no idea that YazzleSudoku, an adware program, has been loaded onto their PC. It's only possible to play the game if users agree to have adware loaded onto their PC.

Source: <http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/04/10/yazzlesoduko/>

42. *April 10, Business Journal (OH)* — **McAfee unveils online threat center.** A new portal that offers the latest security information and tools was announced Monday, April 10, by McAfee Incorporated. The McAfee Threat Center presents detailed analysis and commentary on emerging, current and past malware, vulnerabilities, potentially unwanted programs, phishing and spam. It tracks these threats as they relate to all forms of system, network and messaging security threats, including hoaxes.

McAfee Threat Center: http://www.mcafee.com/us/threat_center/default.asp

Source: <http://www.business-journal.com/McAfeeThreatCenter.asp>

43. *April 04, Reuters* — **Fear of handset viruses deter companies.** Cellular phone viruses are still rare, but more than 60 percent of global companies mention security concerns as a reason for not giving employees advanced handsets, a survey found on Tuesday, April 4. Of 240 companies polled specifically about the threat of viruses, 82 percent of businesses expect a cellular network to be more at risk than a fixed-line network, but only a quarter have assessed the real threat that comes from their staff's handsets, the Economist Intelligence Unit found. Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=technologyNews&storyID=2006-04-04T134100Z_01_L04600379_RTRIDST_0_T_ECH-SECURITY-MOBILE-DC.XML

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of multiple vulnerabilities in RealNetworks, Inc.'s Products. Each of these vulnerabilities may result in a buffer overflow within RealPlayer that could allow a remote attacker execute arbitrary code.

These vulnerabilities can be exploited by convincing a user to:

access a web page that references a specially crafted Flash (SWF) file
access a web page that references a specially crafted mimio boardcast (MBC) file
access a RealMedia file embedded in web page hosted on a malicious server

For more information please review the following US-CERT Vulnerability Notes:

VU#231028 – RealNetworks RealPlayer vulnerable to buffer overflow via a specially crafted flash media file. <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/231028>

VU#451556 – RealNetworks RealPlayer vulnerable to buffer overflow via specially crafted MBC file. <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/451556>

VU#172489 – Numerous RealNetworks products fail to properly handle chunked data. <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/172489>

RealNetworks is making available product upgrades that contain security bug fixes. http://service.real.com/realplayer/security/03162006_player/en/

US-CERT recommends the following actions to mitigate the security risks:

Apply the patches supplied in the RealNetwork Security Update. Disable the RealPlayer ActiveX control in Microsoft Internet Explorer. Disable the RealPlayer

Plugin in in other web browsers. Do not visit unknown or untrusted websites and do not follow suspicious links.

US-CERT encourages users to apply the appropriate updates, patches, or fixes as soon as possible.

Phishing Scams

US-CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. Specifically, sites that provide online benefits are being targeted. US-CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US-CERT.

http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html

Non-federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 12757 (----), 6881 (bittorrent), 38566 (----), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 32459 (----), 47883 (----), 25 (smtp), 3525 (----)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

44. April 11, Associated Press — California governor calls flooding emergency. Rain was falling again Tuesday, April 11, in northern and central California, where Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in seven counties that have been battered by storms and flooding. In his emergency declaration Monday, Schwarzenegger warned that levees in the region had been seriously weakened by the storms and were in danger of breaking. The National Weather Service forecast rain through the weekend. "All of our reservoirs are full and we are not able to contain all the water," Department of Water Resources Deputy Director Les Harder told the governor. "The river system, and the levee system, is being taxed beyond its designed capacity." The record spring rainfall follows a wet winter. Schwarzenegger declared states of emergency in 34 counties in January. In February, he declared another state of emergency covering the state's fragile levee system.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/11/AR2006041100288.html>

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General Sector

45. *April 11, Associated Press* — **Twenty–nine indicted over Madrid terror bombings.** A Spanish judge on Tuesday, April 11, handed down the first indictments in the Madrid train bombings of 2004, charging 29 people with murder, terrorism or other crimes after a two–year probe. The commuter train bombings blamed on Muslim militants killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,700. The charges were contained in a 1,500–page indictment handed down by Juan del Olmo, an investigating magistrate at the National Court, Spain's hub for investigating terrorism. Six of the 29 men were charged with 191 counts of murder and 1,755 counts of attempted murder. Five of these six lead suspects are also charged with belonging to a terrorist organization, while nine other men are accused of collaboration.
Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20060411/D8GTOS1O0.html>

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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